

2007

Luther Seminary Midwinter Convocation, 2007

Luther Seminary

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Living out our callings in the

CONGREGATION

Mid-Winter Convocation

Jan. 10-12, 2007

Luther Seminary

St. Paul, Minn.

Do congregations make a difference? What do congregations offer that book clubs, yoga classes and coffee shops don't? Are they still of any use?

Yes, they are!

Congregations across the country are helping people grow in faith that is relevant to their real lives—faith that gives them the courage to live lives of integrity.

We hope you will join us, Jan. 10-12, as we explore living out our faith in our communities.



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About This Year's Event

Are you interested in how to help your congregation grow in faith? If you are, Mid-Winter Convocation 2007 is for you. At Convocation, pastors, lay leaders, ministry directors, study groups and congregation members will receive relevant resource and thought-provoking information.

Why You Should Attend

Gain a deeper understanding of what living out your calling in your congregation is all about. This conference will give you background and ideas on how to develop, nurture and affirm the callings you and those in your congregation serve.

About Mid-Winter Convocation

Mid-Winter Convocation offers theological enrichment for lay and ordained ministry leaders and the Christian community at large. A national conference, Convocation features scholars and teachers from Luther Seminary and around the world.

For More Information

For additional information and updates, visit the Convocation Web Site at www.luthersem.edu/convo. You may also contact us for more information, 651-523-1640, or convo@luthersem.edu.

Convocation Schedule

Wednesday, January 10

9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Registration, Check-In, Visit Resource Fair
10 a.m.	Chapel Service with Holy Communion <i>Michael Rogness</i>
11:15 a.m.	Greeting: <i>Richard Bliese, Seminary President</i>
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Keynote: "A New Reformation?" <i>Jack Fortin</i>
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30-1:45 p.m.	Gathering Music
1:45-2:45 p.m.	Keynote: "The Restless Being of the Church: Congregations in the Crossroad of Christian Identity" (Part 1) The Congregation as an Agent of Freedom <i>Walter Sundberg</i>
2:45-3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15-4:30 p.m.	Workshops
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Visit Resource Fair
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Buffet
7 p.m.	Evening Entertainment <i>Monroe Crossing</i>

Thursday, January 11

7:30-8:45 a.m.	Strategic Planning Breakfast
8 a.m.	Registration Desk and Resource Fair Open
9 a.m.	Keynote: "Spiritual but Not Religious?!" A Lutheran Counter-Argument" <i>Martha Stortz</i>
10 a.m.	Chapel Service <i>Carol Miles</i>
10:30-11 a.m.	Break
11 a.m.-Noon	Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Awards followed by Seminary President's Forum
Noon- 1 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Workshops
2:30-3 p.m.	Break
3-4 p.m.	Keynote: "The Restless Being of the Church: Congregations in the Crossroad of Christian Identity" (Part 2) The Congregation as an Agent of Mission <i>Walter Sundberg</i>
5-6 p.m.	Reception
6 p.m.	Reunion Dinners (Years ending in 1 and 6 between 1961 and 2006)

Friday, January 12

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Centered Life Breakfast
9-10 a.m.	Keynote: "Lutheran Spirituality: Taking it to the Streets" <i>Martha Stortz</i>
10 a.m.	Chapel Service with Holy Communion <i>Terence Fretheim</i>
11 a.m.	Lunch

For more details on the convocation schedule log on to www.luthersem.edu/convo

Keynote Speakers



Jack Fortin

Jack Fortin is dedicated to helping Christian organizations navigate through the permanent whitewater which characterizes our present organizational and community life. Throughout North America, Fortin sees a disconnect between congregational members' daily lives and their involvement in the church on Sunday. He sees his current

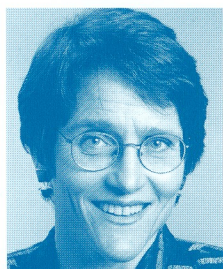
call and mission as executive director of the Center for Lifelong Learning as connecting and equipping “the whole people of God” to their true callings. Thus connected and equipped, members are able to re-ignite congregations for their missions in their communities and throughout the world. He is the author of *The Centered Life: Awakened, Called, Set Free, Nurtured* (2005).



Walter Sundberg

Walter Sundberg is professor of church history at Luther Seminary. Ordained in 1981, he was assistant minister of Como Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul from 1981-1984. He is a member of the advisory council of *Interpretation*, and the editorial boards of *Lutheran Quarterly* and *Lutheran Commentator*. He has published articles in *First Things*, *Lutheran Quarterly*, *dialog*, and *Lutheran Forum*.

His writings for church curriculum include *Day by Day: Luther on the Christian Life* (1983). He is the author of *The Bible in Modern Culture* (2002), which he wrote with Roy Harrisville.



Martha Stortz

Martha Stortz is professor of historical theology and ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Stortz has always been fascinated with how people conduct their lives and is convinced that what people believe in has the ability to form, inform, transform and malform how they conduct their lives, leading her to teach the studies of history and ethics. Throughout her career,

she has worked with a variety of organizations, pastors and programs, but has found that it is the people in the pews that make it all work, that it is the congregations that are the soul of the church. Stortz is a member and convener, GTU Core Doctoral Faculty and serves on the editorial board of *Theological Education*. She is the author of *Pastor Power* (1993) and *A World According to God* (2004).

Workshops

1. Stewards of the Mysteries of God: A Theology of What a Congregation Is

Rolf Jacobson, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Luther Seminary

In our free society, church membership is a choice, we freely choose to associate with a congregation (or not). This reality has led Christians to operate with a “club-like” idea of what a congregation is—“members” join in order to have access to “services” and “benefits.” But our faith teaches that there is a more fruitful way to imagine what a congregation is. This workshop will reflect on how our communal faith lives change when we think of a congregation as stewards of God’s mission in a given time and place and as individual Christians as partners in God’s mission.

2. The Journey of the Missional Church

Pat Taylor Ellison, Managing Director of Research and Development, Church Innovations

Kris Stache, Director of Partnership for the Mission Church, Church Innovations

Congregations know they are living in times unlike any they have seen before. Whether they are shrinking, aging, growing or shallowing, life seems to be changing around them and they may be bewildered. Why are they on that street corner in that neighborhood? What does God expect of them? What does God hope for them? What is God up to through them? For almost 20 years, Church Innovations has been working with congregations on the journey of discerning their missional vocation and experimenting with ways to do it. These congregations have taught us at Church Innovations much about the journey of missional churches and we would like to share some of that with you. What do they know? How must they think? What do they need to believe? How do they act? What habits do they develop that extends the mission to others? Come and find out.

3. Faith in Life: A Congregational Experiment in Lay Empowerment

Paul Berge, Director of Vision Slovakia, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minn.

John Keller, Associate Pastor, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minn.

In the fall of 2005, in partnership with Centered Life® at Luther Seminary, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church launched a new adult ministry program called Faith in Life. Twenty-seven participants have entered a two-year program of retreats, classes and fellowship events, designed to move them through a concentrated experience of readings, lectures, discussions and reflection. By utilizing pastors, leaders from the congregation and faculty from the seminary, the participants are experiencing an in-depth educational and faith development journey. The goal of the program is to guide the participants into an integrated understanding of their Christian faith and how it impacts their daily lives. At the workshop these two leaders will share how Faith and Life is impacting the participants and their congregation.

4. Beyond Maintenance Ministry, Vibrant Congregations in Rural Communities

Ray Branstiter, Lead Pastor, Tri-County Ministry, Cooperstown, North Dakota

As rural populations continue to decline, the church is often the last organization within a community where a group of people gather on a regular basis. In this workshop, we will explore the roll that rural and small town churches play in the lives of their communities, the role of their pastors as community leader, and the role her/his congregation play in the life of a community. We will also explore the opportunities for rural and small town churches that are not often shared with their sister congregations in urban settings.

5. Called to Share Concern: A Sacred Moment and Opportunity

Drew Brooks, Faith Partners Project Manager, Rush Center of Johnson Institute

Though addiction affects every congregation, conversations about alcohol and other drug use and addiction are rare and uncomfortable. Clergy and lay people, with assistance, can learn to speak up in a timely way about their concerns without judgment and extend a helping hand. In this workshop, we will explore the “sharing concern” skill, which is a part of a healing congregational ministry that engages the hurting, points to direct help, nurtures personal growth and celebrates recovery. With this skill set, an informed clergy, supported by committed and trained congregational members, can serve by offering hope to those who suffer through awareness, education and early intervention strategies.

6. Leadership Challenges Pastors Face in the 21st Century: Reflections from the Field

David Stark, Director of Changing Church Forum and President of BusinessKeys International

Many pastors and lay leaders today find they are concerned, confused and even in crisis over the context of ministry today. Church leaders are faced with the fact that eight out of 10 Americans today believe they should work out their beliefs without the help of religious institutions. People of different ethnicities and religious backgrounds are moving into communities together. The communication revolution continues—words and technologies that were non-existent 10 years ago are now routine for the average American. What does that mean for worship, learning and communicating? These changes challenge church leadership in ways they have not faced in a long time. Changing Church ministry is interacting with pastors every month that are faced with these questions. This workshop will be an overview of our learnings, as well as the tools we use to help address the new situations churches find themselves in today.

7. The Mercy Seat Story: Trusting the Peculiar Relevance of The Cross

Mark Stenberg, Co-Pastor, Mercy Seat, Minneapolis

Don't be relevant. Be peculiar. Peculiarly *Christian*. Such are the intuitions behind Mercy Seat, a new congregation whose aim is not at popular attempts at cultural relevance, but on the extraordinary appeal of Trinitarian theology, faithful and creative liturgy and a confidence in the *peculiar* message of the one who bids that when we die we will be born again. Mercy Seat is a creative response to a growing need for urban, critical-thinking and grace-based Christian orthodoxy. Come and hear the story of our first year and help us figure out if it's going to work.

8. Discerning Mission: Demographic Study, Congregational Process and the Holy Spirit

Christopher E Hagen, Interim Senior Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, Minn.

Advent Lutheran, Maple Grove, Minn., is experiencing rapid change in its external environment and is struggling internally to identify its purpose and calling. The congregation is reading demographic information theologically, discerning the Spirit's leading and seeking to be an effective witness to God's kingdom come. In this workshop, we will explore how this congregation is attempting to understand the intent of the Lord in the Maple Grove area and the church's role in what God is doing. We will also explore how to apply similar methods and learnings to your congregation's context.

Convocation Notes

Hotel Accommodations

Housing is available at hotels near the Luther Seminary campus. Participants must arrange accommodation plans directly with the hotel they select. The following list does not reflect recommendations by Luther Seminary. It was compiled for your information only.

Comfort Inn, 2715 Long Lake Rd., Roseville	(651) 636-5800
Sheraton Four Points, 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis	(800) 325-3535
Holiday Inn, 1010 W. Bandana Blvd., St. Paul	(651) 647-1637
Fairfield Inn, 3045 Centre Point Dr., Roseville	(651) 636-7869
Residence Inn, 2985 Centre Point Dr., Roseville	(651) 636-0680
The Radisson, 2540 Cleveland Ave. N., St. Paul	(651) 636-4567
Super 8 Motel, 2401 Prior Ave., Roseville	(651) 636-8888

Strategic Planning at Luther Seminary: A Conversation with Friends and Alumni/ae

Luther Seminary is in the midst of preparing its next strategic plan. As we gather information and set priorities, we want to hear from you. What challenges are you facing in your congregations and communities? What role can Luther Seminary play in helping congregations thrive? There is a \$2.50 charge to cover some of the cost of breakfast.

Centered Life® Breakfast

Come and learn how Centered Life® can help your congregation equip people and live out their callings in daily life—at work, at home, in your congregation and in the community on Friday, January 12, 7:30 a.m. The cost of the breakfast is \$2.50. Reservations can be made on your registration form.

Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Awards

Each year, the Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Awards recognizes faithful servants of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This year's honorees will be recognized before the Seminary President's Forum on Thursday, January 11.

The honorees were nominated by their peers to recognize their faithfulness at various stages in ministry—10 years, 25 years, or more. Read about the honorees online at www.luthersem.edu/convo.

Wednesday Buffet Dinner

Don't miss a chance to gather with old and new friends over a delicious dinner buffet on Wednesday, January 10 in the Olson Campus Center dining room. Advance tickets are required and the cost is \$10 per person. Vegetarian meal choices will be available. Space is limited, so register in advance on your registration form.

Wednesday Concert with Monroe Crossing

After the dinner Wednesday, January 9, join us for an evening concert featuring Monroe Crossing. This five-piece bluegrass ensemble performs traditional, contemporary and original bluegrass and gospel songs and instrumentals.

Named in honor of Bill Monroe, "The Father of Bluegrass," Monroe Crossing performs mostly songs written or made famous by the first generation masters of bluegrass, such as Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs and The Stanley Brothers. Collectively, Monroe Crossing's players have been playing bluegrass for decades and the group has played as a unit since 2002.



Fees & Payment Information

Registration includes lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Full Registration\$

Fees for registration received on or before Dec. 1:

- ☐ \$100 per person
- ☐ \$90 per person for retired participants
- ☐ \$80 per person for two or more members of a congregation
- ☐ FREE for Luther Seminary 2006 graduates, current students, faculty, emeriti and staff

Fees for registration received after Dec. 1:

- ☐ \$130 per person
- ☐ \$120 per person for retired participants
- ☐ \$110 per person for two or more members of a congregation
- ☐ FREE for Luther Seminary 2006 graduates, current students, faculty, emeriti and staff

Partial Registration\$

- ☐ Wednesday, \$70 per person
- ☐ Thursday, \$90 per person
- ☐ Friday, \$70 per person

Breakfast and Dinner Reservations\$

- ☐ Reserve_____ticket(s) for the Strategic Planning Breakfast, \$2.50 each.
- ☐ Reserve_____ticket(s) for the CenteredLife® breakfast, \$2.50 each.
- ☐ Reserve_____ticket(s) for the Wednesday Dinner Buffet, \$10 each.
(Option: I/we want_____vegetarian meals.)

Convocation CDs\$

Convocation recordings may be ordered in advance and at the end of the event.

- ☐ I want_____set(s) of CDs of the keynote presentations, \$30 per set.

Total Fees Enclosed\$

Payment Method

- ☐ Check Enclosed (*payable to Luther Seminary*)
- ☐ Credit Card (*provide account number below*)
 - ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Exp. Date_____ Signature_____

See www.luthersem.edu/convo for refund policy.